



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

Karl E. Longley, ScD, P.E., Chair

DH



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25 November 2008

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GENERAL AND FOCUSED SITE SUBWATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL – EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION

On 30 October 2008, the East San Joaquin River Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted a Management Plan, which included a General Approach to describe monitoring and management practice activities that will take place throughout the Coalition area, and a Focused Site Subwatershed Management Plan (Focused Plan) to describe intensified efforts in the high-priority watersheds of Dry Creek, Duck Slough, and Prairie Flower. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) has reviewed both components of the Management Plan.

The Coalition's Management Plan addresses the specific requirements of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, including identification and implementation of management practices throughout the Coalition. If necessary the Coalition shall utilize intensified efforts in the Dry Creek, Duck Slough and Prairie Flower Drain priority watersheds to obtain management practice information. According to the Coalition's Management Plan, individual contacts will be actively pursued for growers in these priority watersheds if they have any discharge pathway to Dry Creek, Duck Slough, or Prairie Flow Drain and/or if they are users of chlorpyrifos.

It is recognized that the Coalition faces many challenges to comply with the Management Plan requirement of source identification for Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). For example, effective solutions for pesticides, pathogens or toxicity in areas influenced by the dairy industry will necessitate coordinated efforts with the Regional Water Board dairy program. Although the Coalition is not responsible for implementation of the Management Plan by other sources of waste discharges -- which may include non-members, dairies, water districts, or cities -- coordination with these entities is encouraged.

The Coalition's Management Plan demonstrates the commitment to work with the Regional Water Board on the Central Valley's salinity problems through participation in the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives program. With this Management Plan, the Coalition is also addressing their members' responsibilities to implement the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Plan Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for salt and boron, organophosphate pesticides, and dissolved oxygen. The Coalition's Management Plan also identifies actions to reduce pesticide discharges to tributaries to the San Joaquin River. When implemented, those actions should adequately address your members' diazinon and chlorpyrifos

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discharges to the San Joaquin River. It will be necessary for the Coalition to specifically identify actions taken to address TMDLs in each annual Management Plan report.

I want to make it clear that all growers in the Coalition are obligated to meet the conditions of the Coalition Group waiver. Since the Coalition will be focusing its intensified efforts in three watersheds, all Coalition Group members in those watersheds must actively participate in addressing the identified water quality problems. Failure of individual participants to respond to requests by the Coalition will put their status under the Coalition Group waiver in jeopardy. The Coalition's members that refuse to cooperate, after a concerted effort on the part of the Coalition, should have their membership canceled and their failure to maintain membership communicated to the Regional Water Board.

In summary, the basic approach for source identification, outreach, mitigation actions, and evaluation described in the Coalition's Management Plan is appropriate, and I am granting approval of the Management Plan. With this approval, the Coalition meets the Management Plan development requirements of the Coalition Group waiver¹ for those parameters and water bodies identified in Table 6 of the Coalition's Management Plan (Page 19).

It is fully anticipated that the Coalition will need to modify the Management Plan over time, as new monitoring data and performance measures inform us about the effectiveness of the actions, and as activities for Focused Plans in other water bodies need to be described. These modifications will need to be discussed and evaluated with Regional Water Board staff during the designated quarterly meetings and documented in Management Plan updates. Any updates will need to receive my approval as Executive Officer.

If there are any questions concerning these requirements, please contact Dania Huggins at 916-464-4843, or by email at dhuggins@waterboards.ca.gov.



PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

¹ B.6. of Amended Attachment B, Order No. R5-2006-0053.